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AUDREY McLAUGHLIN
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February 18, 1992

The Honourable Benoît Bouchard, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Health and Welfare
Room 325
East Block
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Bouchard:

This is further to my letter of May 2, 1991, regarding Mr. Chris Brown's concerns about people suffering from environmental sensitivities. As you will recall, Mr. Brown is President of the Ottawa branch of the Allergy and Environmental Health Association of Canada. Thank you very much for your reply. However, Mr. Brown had indicated to my office that there are still some areas of concern which may not have been completely addressed:

1) First of all, Mr. Brown cites a report done by Ashford and Miller for the New Jersey Department of Health which recommends examining patients to see if they are suffering from environmental sensitivities before starting "potentially detrimental psychiatric interventions." Mr. Brown feels that some of the suicides in Canada are a result of people who are suffering from environmental sensitivities but who have not been diagnosed correctly.

I would like to know what you think of this point, and if measures are being taken to ensure that proper diagnosis of people suffering from environmental sensitivities does indeed take place.

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2) Secondly, Mr. Brown is quite concerned that some people suffering from environmental sensitivities who have been misdiagnosed as suffering from a psychological illness, have had their reputations damaged. I am wondering if your department has addressed this matter and what things you are doing, if any, to rectify this situation?

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Audrey M.

c.c.: Mr. Chris Brown